



<b>Subject:</b>	River Terrace Community Garden
<b>Date:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Ricky Rice, City Park Manager (South)

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to inform Members of a recent meeting and subsequent decision by South Belfast Area Working Group concerning a proposal to develop a community garden in River Terrace area.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• approve the recommendations of the South Belfast Area Working Group to proceed with a Community Garden in an area (see Appendix 1) which is adjacent to the original River Terrace Department for Communities site, and to allocate the remaining £20,000 Capital Fund to develop the site.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members are reminded that £50k of capital funds were allocated to South Belfast which would contribute to the build of a community garden. It was previously agreed that an amount in the region of £20k remaining from that fund could be set against the cost of River Terrace.

3.2	<p>The original proposed site known as River Terrace is no longer a viable site due to contamination issues and undulating ground conditions. Department for Communities were unable to support cost of decontamination which is estimated to be in the region of £160 - £440,000. Therefore the site must be surrendered back to Department for Communities (DfC).</p>
3.3	<p>People &amp; Communities Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 considered this and agreed to surrender subject to South Belfast Area Working Group considering how the funds of £20k should be spent.</p>
3.4	<p>The South Belfast Area Working Group met on 24 January 2017 and agreed to proceed with another site opposite River Terrace, see attached photograph for location (Appendix 1).</p>
3.5	<p>Door to door house surveys by Parks Outreach Officers took place in Cooke Street, Artana Street, Dromara Street, River Terrace and Balfour Avenue. The survey results indicated 86% of householders were interested in participating in a community garden and the location as indicated was their preferred choice. It is a flat area of Belfast City Council land measuring approximately 30 metres by 20 metres.</p>
3.6	<p>Following approval from Committee, Parks Officers will proceed to allocate £20,000 of capital funds to purchase the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Install raised planters in order to negate any possible contaminations issues</li> <li>▪ Install a fence around the area</li> <li>▪ Install a small container/shed to store tools, gardening equipment</li> <li>▪ Possible installation of a polytunnel if the gardening community group request one and it is within budget</li> <li>▪ Continue with the process of engaging with the local community by means of 'growing workshops' and consultation to form a Gardening Community group.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Capital Funds of £20,000 have already been allocated to this scheme. There will be Officer time required to assist the local community in establishing a Community Garden.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known Equality or Good Relation implications as the Community Garden will be available for everyone to participate and enjoy.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Attached photograph of proposed location for Community Garden